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DE RUEHBO #6460 2481135
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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8580
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE 7721
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE 9278
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ SEP 8891
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE 5355
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE 0589
RUEHQZ/AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE 5956
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBO/USMILGP BOGOTA CO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 006460

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/04/2017
TAGS: MARR PGOV PREL PTER CO
SUBJECT: GOC KILLS FARC HIGH VALUE TARGET TOMAS MEDINA
("NEGRO ACACIO")

Classified By: DCM Brian A. Nichols

Reason: 1.4 (b,d)

¶11. (U) The GOC claims to have killed Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) 16th Front commander Tomas Medina Caracas, aka "Negro Acacio." Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos said Medina died September 1 during a pre-dawn bombing of a FARC jungle camp near the Venezuela border. The GOC has not recovered Medina's body, but Santos said intercepts of FARC communications -- together with an examination of fingerprints found at the camp -- confirmed Medina was one of reportedly 17 FARC killed in the raid.

¶12. (U) Medina played a key role in FARC narcotrafficking. In 2002, a U.S. federal court indicted him on trafficking and kidnapping (of a U.S. citizen) charges. A later U.S. indictment charged Medina with trading cocaine to the Peruvian military for over ten thousand Kalashnikov rifles and other weapons. The GOC separately charged Medina with over 20 crimes, including murder, kidnapping and drug trafficking. Santos called Medina's death a "huge blow" to the FARC's logistical capacity. Medina would be the first FARC HVT killed by the GOC.

¶13. (C) GOC forensic experts to confirm Medina's death through DNA analysis in the coming days. We have alerted all USG agencies with forward deployed personnel of Medina's death, and they are taking appropriate security precautions. We will continue to monitor the security situation carefully.
Brownfield